

## An ADE Newsletter for Test Coordinators

August 2014



# The Examiner

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**Irene Hunting, Deputy Associate Superintendent**



### Welcome to the new school year!

This school year promises to bring many changes for assessment. The sections of *The Examiner* have been retitled to reflect some of these changes. The “Achievement Assessments” section will include information about the new statewide achievement assessment and AIMS. The “Alternate Assessment” section will include information about National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) and AIMS A.

Later this fall, the State Board of Education is expected to select and adopt the new statewide achievement assessment for English language arts and mathematics. This new assessment will be administered for the first time in spring 2015 and is expected to be a computer-based assessment with a paper-based option for schools not yet ready to administer a computer-based assessment. The ADE will share information about this new assessment as soon as it is available. Arizona continues to participate in NCSC, the new alternate assessment for English language arts and mathematics, with a second pilot test this fall and the first operational administration in spring 2015. The new alternate assessment, like AIMS A, will be administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities who cannot meaningfully be assessed with the achievement test even with accommodations.

AIMS HS (Writing, Reading, and Mathematics) will continue to be administered twice a year for those students on track to graduate by December 31, 2016. AIMS Science will continue to be administered every spring in Grades 4, 8, and high school. AIMS A Science will continue to be administered every spring in Grades 4, 8, and 10. A new state statute requires AIMS Science and AIMS A Science results to be included in school accountability. The details for how those results will be included in school accountability have not been established.

As announced in June, the passing cut score for the *AZELLA Kindergarten Placement Test* has been revised. It is now slightly higher than it was for school years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. With the revision of the *AZELLA Kindergarten Placement Test* cut score, Kindergarten Initial Fluent English Proficient (IFEP) students will no longer participate in the Spring *AZELLA Reassessment*.

The ADE Assessment Section has been involved in the administration of National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) for many years. We are now involved in the administration of international assessments as well. Approximately 400 Arizona schools are scheduled to participate in the 2015 NAEP administration, a main testing year for NAEP. In addition, a small sample of Arizona schools will be participating in the *Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study* (TIMSS) in spring 2015. These national and international assessments provide Arizona with valuable information about how our students perform compared to their peers in other states and countries.

As we move through this school year, the ADE Assessment Section is here to support all of our test coordinators and their LEAs, schools, teachers, and students. We are committed to providing the help needed for smooth test administrations.

The State Board of Education is expected to select and adopt the new statewide achievement assessment for English language arts and mathematics by early October. Future editions of *The Examiner* will include information about this new assessment. This edition of *The Examiner* has information about AIMS HS and AIMS Science which is relevant now as well as later in the school year. Please keep this edition for later reference, since this information may not be repeated in later editions of *The Examiner*.

### **Key Dates for AIMS HS and AIMS Science**

August 19 — Receive *PearsonAccess* Username/Password. The username will be the same for both AIMS HS administrations and AIMS Science.

September 15 - 26 — Conduct Pre-Test Training for district/charters that are administering AIMS HS and AIMS Science.

February 2 - 20 — Conduct Pre-Test Training for district/charters that are administering AIMS Science only.

	<b>AIMS HS October</b>	<b>AIMS HS February</b>	<b>AIMS Science</b>
Pre-Test Training	September 15 - 26 Schools administering AIMS HS and AIMS Science		February 2 - 20 AIMS Science Only
Participation Counts Window	August 25 – September 5	January 5 - 16	January 5 - 16
Data Extract for Pre-ID Labels	September 9	N/A	January 30
Delivery Window	October 6 - 9	February 10 - 12	March 2 - 5
Additional Order Window	October 16 - 17	N/A	March 6 - April 10
AIMS HS Writing	October 28	February 23	N/A
AIMS HS Reading	October 29	February 24	N/A
AIMS HS Mathematics	October 30	February 25	N/A
AIMS Science	N/A	N/A	March 16 – April 24
UPS Pickup Window	October 31 – November 6	February 26 – March 4	April 13 – May 1
Reports Posted to <i>PearsonAccess</i>	December 15	April 22	May 22
Paper Reports	December 22	May 6	June 4

### **AIMS HS and AIMS Science Pre-Test Training**

The Pre-Test Trainings will be presented online via Arizona Learning Management System (BlackBoard). Participation in the AIMS Pre-Test Training is mandatory for all Achievement Testing District Test Coordinators. The trainings will be presented in three sessions with each session taking no more than 30-40 minutes to complete. The online trainings can be completed in one or multiple sittings. Achievement District Test Coordinators will be pre-registered for the trainings and will receive emails with their username, password and more information about the training prior to the opening of the training window. To confirm registration and the ability to view the trainings, Achievement District Test Coordinator must complete Session 1 within the first three days of the training window.

The September training for AIMS HS and AIMS Science will include information for the October and February AIMS HS test administrations and the AIMS Science test administration. The February training for AIMS Science is required only for those districts that are not administering the AIMS HS tests.

### **Participation Counts Window**

Test materials are provided based on the counts entered in *PearsonAccess* during the Participation Counts Window. So that test materials arrive in the correct location, test coordinators must verify the contact information and shipping address in *PearsonAccess* during the Participation Counts Window.

**Every Achievement Testing District Test Coordinator is expected to download the *AIMS User's Guide – Participation Counts* and follow the directions in the guide for submitting participation counts and verifying contact information. The *User's Guide* is posted on the Arizona AIMS “landing page” of *PearsonAccess*. [www.pearsonaccess.com](http://www.pearsonaccess.com)**

### **Determining Participation Counts**

Participation counts will be pre-populated in *PearsonAccess*.

Pre-populated counts for AIMS HS October administration are based on Spring 2014 AIMS HS test results.

Pre-populated counts for AIMS HS February administration are based on Fall 2014 AIMS HS test results.

Pre-populated counts for AIMS HS Science are based on students enrolled in Cohort 2017 who do not have a previous AIMS HS Science test score.

Pre-populated counts for AIMS Science Grades 4 and 8 are based on student enrollments.

The numbers serve only as an estimate of the actual participation counts. Achievement Testing District Test Coordinators must calculate the actual participation counts for each content area (AIMS HS) and grade level (AIMS Science).

For AIMS HS, the participation count is determined by adding the number of students who must test and the number of students who have signed up to test to “Exceed.” For AIMS Grades 4 and 8 Science, the participation count is the same as enrollment. For AIMS HS Science, the participation count is the number of Cohort 2017 (typically sophomores) who must test on Science **plus** the number of Cohort 2018 (typically freshmen) who are opting to take the test early because they are enrolled in a Life Science course. **Enter into *PearsonAccess* the exact number of students expected to participate.** Do not over-order. An overage is automatically included with every order.

**Do not wait until the Additional Order Window to order large print or Braille.** Counts for large print and Braille must be entered during the Participation Counts Window. **Large print and Braille that are not ordered during the initial Participation Counts Window may not be available during the Additional Order Window.**

### **Students to be Tested**

Students on track to graduate by December 31, 2016 are permitted to participate in the AIMS HS. Students that have not yet earned a “Meets the Standard” in one or more content areas are expected to test in that specific content area. Students who want to move from “Meets the Standard” to the “Exceeds the Standard” have the option to retest. Students with an IEP or 504 plan will test as determined by their IEP or 504 plan.

Students in Grades 4 and 8 are expected to test on AIMS Science. Students in Cohort 2017 (typically sophomores) are expected to test on AIMS Science unless the student tested as a ninth grade student the previous year. Students in Cohort 2018 (typically freshmen) may test on AIMS Science if they are taking a Life Science course.

**A new state law requires AIMS Science to be included in school accountability (A-F Letter Grades). The exact details of how AIMS Science results will be included in A-F Letter Grades are not yet established.**

**Student Pre-ID Labels**

**AIMS HS October Administration** — Pre-ID Labels will be produced for students in state-funded schools that have entered participation counts for the AIMS HS October test administration in *PearsonAccess* by September 5 and have enrollments in SAIS by September 9. Students in Cohort 2016 and Cohort 2015 and below who have not yet passed one or more of the required content areas of AIMS HS will automatically receive a label for the content area(s) that they have not yet passed based upon their enrollment information in SAIS by September 9.

**AIMS HS February Administration** — Pre-ID Labels **will not** be produced for the AIMS HS February test administration.

**AIMS Science** — Pre-ID Labels will be produced for students in Grades 4 and 8 who are registered in SAIS as of January 30. Pre-ID Labels will be produced for students in Cohort 2017 who do not have a previous AIMS HS Science score and for students in Cohort 2018 who have been selected using the Pre-ID Label Selection Application.

**AIMS HS Science Pre-ID Label Selection Application** — Cohort 2018 students (generally freshmen) will not automatically receive a label for AIMS HS Science. Use the label selection application to identify Cohort 2018 students who are opting to take the AIMS HS Science Test. The application is found on the Assessment page of the ADE Common Logon. Follow the directions within the application. The label selection application will be available January 5 - 30.

**Additional Order Window**

Additional materials for the AIMS HS October administration and the AIMS Science administration can be ordered during the Additional Order Window. There is no Additional Order Window for the AIMS HS February administration, since the Participation Window for that test closes just 5 weeks before the test window.

**Returning AIMS Materials**

**Return of the AIMS materials will be handled differently this year.** Each district will be responsible for contacting UPS, per the directions that will be provided in the *Test Coordinator's Manual*, to request to have materials picked up. Districts must contact UPS between the dates listed below to be guaranteed delivery to Pearson in time for processing. Materials that are picked up after the last day for pickup will be put into late receipts.

Test Administration	Contact UPS Window	UPS Pickup Window
AIMS HS October Administration	October 30 – November 5	October 31 – November 6
AIMS HS February Administration	February 25 – March 3	February 26 – March 4
AIMS Science	April 10 – April 30	April 13 – May 1

**Score Reports**

The number of Score Reports has been reduced for the AIMS HS and AIMS Science. The only paper reports that schools will receive will be the 2 copies of the Student Reports. The Confidential Roster Report with Summary (school level, PDF) will be available for AIMS HS and AIMS Science. The Summary Concept Reports (school level, PDF) will be available for AIMS Science only. Schools will also receive the Student Data File (district level, preformatted .txt tab delimited). The PDF copies of these reports and the Student Data File will be available for download from *PearsonAccess*.

# Alternate Assessments

August 2014

## Alternate Assessment Eligibility - Combined Form

In response to input from the field, we have combined the NCSC and AIMS A eligibility forms into a single [combined alternate assessment eligibility form](#). This form is posted on both ADE's AIMS A webpage and the NCSC webpage. Going forward into the 2014-2015 school year, IEP Teams must discuss and determine eligibility and accommodations for both the AIMS A Science and the NCSC alternate assessments.

## Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator Webpage

Test Coordinators now have their own webpage with various tabs including testing dates, webinars and videos, training, newsletters, etc., at this link: [Test Coordinators Webpage](#)

## Fall 2014: NCSC Pilot 2

The transition to the new alternate assessment continues to move forward. With the administration of the Pilot 1 Test completed, the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) is preparing for the Pilot 2. **This is the last opportunity to become familiar with the NCSC Alternate Assessment before the spring 2015 operational test.**

**\*\*For NCSC PILOT 2 \*\* only students in Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 will be included!**

Recruitment for this pilot test begins in mid-August. Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators will identify the students to participate in the pilot through our newly-created ADE Student Selector Application. (All Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators will have access to this new application within the ADE Common Logon.) The Student Selector Application is scheduled to be open from August 18 through September 8, 2014. A *User's Guide* for this application, with easy to follow instructions, will be available. The appropriate data for students selected using this application will be submitted to NCSC for inclusion in the pilot.

Training modules for the NCSC Pilot 2 will be available for Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators and Test Administrators (teachers) beginning September 29. Access to the NCSC training modules will be available on the **NCSC Testing Platform**. We will no longer have to go to a separate site.

The NCSC Pilot 2 administration window will be open from October 20 through November 4. Identified students will be administered one of the following:

Reading and Math sections **or** Reading and Writing sections

NCSC will determine in which sections the students will participate.

## Spring 2015: NCSC Operational Test

The new NCSC Alternate Assessment will be operational for spring 2015 (specific dates to be determined). All eligible students will participate in ELA (Reading and Writing) and the Mathematics assessment for Grades 3-8 and 11.

**Accessing NCSC Information**

As the transition continues to the NCSC Alternate Assessment, we will provide support to Test Coordinators and teachers via the Alternate Assessment-NCSC webpage. ([www.azed.gov/assessment/ncsc/](http://www.azed.gov/assessment/ncsc/))

Test Coordinators and teachers will have links for easy navigation and access to assessment and instructional resources. The *Instructional Resource Guide*, *Graduated Understandings/Instruction Families and Element Cards*, will support access to the AZCCRS.

**NCSC Community of Practice (CoP)**

Additionally, our newly created CoP webpage will provide access to archived webinar trainings. Please check out our Community of Practice (CoP) tab. ([www.azed.gov/assessment/ncsc-cop/](http://www.azed.gov/assessment/ncsc-cop/))

**Anyone interested can join our CoP live calls on various assessment and instructional topics. Dates and times are posted under [Webinar Call Dates](#).**

**AIMS A Science Continues**

- Students in Grades 4 and 8 will **also** take the AIMS A Science.
- Students in Grade 10 will take the AIMS A Science only.

**Important dates for AIMS A Science**

A link to the updated *Test Coordinator Manual* and *Test Administration Directions* will be posted on our AIMS A Science webpage. Timelines for test preparation and test administration remain the same:

- November — Test Coordinators complete AIMS A Science training.
- December — Test Coordinators submit username and password requests for all Test Administrators.
- January — Test Coordinators add the names of the eligible students into the AIMS A Application. ADE is developing a more streamlined approach to identifying students for AIMS A Science testing.
- February 15 through March 31 — AIMS A Science testing window is open.

**Reminder: All important dates are also posted on the Assessment Calendar.**

**ADE Customer Survey Results**

Thank you for your feedback through the annual ADE External Customer Satisfaction Survey. Each year the Alternate Assessment Unit examines the results to find areas in which improvement can be made. This year we will:

- Continue to strive to have exceptional response times to your questions or concerns either through emails or phone calls.
- Incorporate suggestions of more detailed procedures for AIMS A and NCSC.
- Post the AIMS A Science test coordinator training PowerPoint within one week of the closing date for training.
- Online AIMS A training will include highlighted due dates for returning AIMS A materials.

**Alternate Assessment Newsletter:** The ADE Alternate Assessment Unit has created a monthly newsletter, *Tidbits*, written for special education educators. It offers tips and helpful links on topics of interest, such as instructional practices, student engagement, inclusive practices, and accommodations. *Please share this link with your special education teachers.* [www.azed.gov/assessment/aims-a/](http://www.azed.gov/assessment/aims-a/)



**Few Changes for 2014 – 2015**

AZELLA District Test Coordinators and Test Administrators will find few changes in test administration for the 2014-2015 year. The cycle of training and test administration is very similar to 2013-2014. Placement Testing will continue throughout the year using the same test materials with registration and scoring to continue to be facilitated through *PearsonAccess*. District Test Coordinator training will remain web-based using a new delivery application, Arizona Learning Management System (BlackBoard). Qualification for *Kindergarten Placement Test* administration and *AZELLA Placement Test Writing* scoring will continue to be offered through *PearsonPerspective*. Training for the Spring 2015 *Reassessment Test* will be offered later in the year, with the test window scheduled for February 9 through March 27, 2015.

The *AZELLA Kindergarten Placement Test* passing score has been increased from a scale score of 235 to a scale score of 245. This increase was implemented at the recommendation of a committee of Arizona educators experienced with ELL and Kindergarten students. The higher passing cut score is expected to result in an increase of Kindergarten ELL participation of approximately ten percentage points compared to the previous two school years. With this increase in the placement test cut score, the inclusion of Kindergarten IFEP students in the Spring AZELLA Reassessment will be discontinued.

Additionally, our valued AZELLA State Test Coordinator, Linda Harvey, has retired as of July 25, 2014. We thank her for serving the AZELLA test community and her 27 years of serving the educational community. Thanks to her calm and professional demeanor, she has been able to assist our constituents with the multitude of changes in ELL assessment and programs. Although we will miss her, the Assessment staff will be working together to continue to offer prompt and accurate responses to your inquiries. You can continue to email the AZELLA inbox for assistance at [azella@azed.gov](mailto:azella@azed.gov).

**Checklist for AZELLA District Test Coordinators**

- ☐ Complete *AZELLA Placement Test* Training on Arizona Learning Management System.
- ☐ Complete and submit the AZELLA Placement Materials Worksheet. The worksheet is posted here: [www.azed.gov/assessment/azella](http://www.azed.gov/assessment/azella).
- ☐ Order *AZELLA Placement Test* materials in *PearsonAccess* (if locked out of *PearsonAccess*, email [AZELLA@azed.gov](mailto:AZELLA@azed.gov)).
- ☐ Have your *Kindergarten Placement Test* Administrators complete the *AZELLA Kindergarten Placement Test* Administration Training and Qualification at [www.perspectiveforeducators.com/azella](http://www.perspectiveforeducators.com/azella).
- ☐ Train staff members who will be administering the *AZELLA Stages II-V Placement Tests*.
- ☐ Have your AZELLA Writing Scorers complete the AZELLA Writing Scoring Training and Qualification at [www.perspectiveforeducators.com/azella](http://www.perspectiveforeducators.com/azella).
- ☐ Have your staff who will be key-entering student data and student responses for the *AZELLA Placement Test* download and review the *2014-2015 AZELLA Placement PearsonAccess User's Guide* posted on the AZELLA landing page of *PearsonAccess* ([www.pearsonaccess.com](http://www.pearsonaccess.com)).
- ☐ Administer *AZELLA Placement Tests* as required.

**Download all AZELLA Reports from 2013-2014**

For both the placement test and reassessment reports, AZELLA reporting from school year 2013-2014 will be permanently removed from *PearsonAccess* on September 30. If you have not done so already, download these reports and save locally in a secure location. All AZELLA results are part of a student's permanent record.

**AZELLA 2014-2015 Placement Test Scoring and Reporting Cycles**

*AZELLA Placement Test* reports will be produced based on the cycle dates shown below. Student results will not be reported until the student's SAIS ID is entered (unless the student is tested at a BIE or private school).

Cycle	Last Key Entry Date	Electronic Results Posted	Paper Reports Due
1	8/15/2014	9/4/2014	9/11/2014
2	8/29/2014	9/18/2014	9/25/2014
3	9/12/2014	10/2/2014	10/9/2014
4	9/26/2014	10/16/2014	10/23/2014
5	10/24/2014	11/13/2014	11/20/2014
6	11/21/2014	12/11/2014	12/18/2014
7	12/19/2014	1/8/2015	1/15/2015
8	1/30/2015	2/19/2015	2/26/2015
9	2/27/2015	3/12/2015	3/19/2015
10	3/27/2015	4/16/2015	4/23/2015
11	4/24/2015	5/14/2015	5/21/2015
12	5/22/2015	6/11/2015	6/18/2015

AZELLA District Test Coordinators may choose which *AZELLA Placement Test* Reports are provided in paper. The default option is paper reports for both Student Reports and Roster Reports. To change paper preferences, go to the **Test Setup** tab in *PearsonAccess*. Enter **Administration Details** and click the **Edit** button. Select the **No** radio button to opt out of receiving printed copies of the Student Report or the Roster Report. Be sure to click **Save**. The paper preferences can be changed for every scoring cycle if desired. Once the majority of *AZELLA Placement Testing* is complete, AZELLA District Test Coordinators might opt to receive only Student Reports on paper.

**AZELLA Data**

There are several steps you can take to ensure that your students' AZELLA data are as accurate as possible.

- Do not administer an *AZELLA Placement Test* without first referencing the student's SDELL70 report to determine that a placement test is needed. You are not required to run an SDELL70 report for first-time Kindergarten students entering at the start of the school year.
- Make certain that student name, date of birth, and SAIS ID key-entered on the Placement test exactly match what is entered in SAIS for that student.
- For *AZELLA Placement Tests*, enter the SAIS ID number for the student as soon as it is known. Placement Tests without SAIS IDs are not reported to ADE.
- Prior to the final day of the scoring cycle, review the *PearsonAccess* Summary Status Report. Use the instructions provided in the AZELLA Placement Test Training to confirm that all AZELLA Placement tests are complete and ready to report out at the end of the scoring cycle.
- When scoring cycle results are posted, review the AZELLA Corrections app on the ADE Common Logon. Correct AZELLA errors as soon as possible. Records in the AZELLA Corrections app are not visible in an SDELL70 report.





**Retesting students who participated in the Spring 2014 AZELLA Reassessment**

A very limited number of students who participated in the Spring 2014 *AZELLA Reassessment* must take an *AZELLA Placement Test* at the beginning of this school year. Students who meet **both** criteria below must take an *AZELLA Placement Test* to determine appropriate placement for school year 2014-2015:

- Student was receiving ELL services during school year 2013-2014, **and**
- Student's Overall Proficiency Level, as reported on a Spring 2014 AZELLA roster report, is "Incomplete Test."

No FEP student requires an *AZELLA Placement Test* regardless of Spring 2014 AZELLA results. No ELL student with a Spring 2014 AZELLA Overall Proficiency Level of Pre-Emergent/Emergent, Basic, Intermediate, or Proficient requires an *AZELLA Placement Test*.

If uncertain about whether a student with an incomplete Spring 2014 *AZELLA Reassessment* needs to take an *AZELLA Placement Test*, email the AZELLA Team at [AZELLA@azed.gov](mailto:AZELLA@azed.gov). Be certain to include the student's SAIS ID number in your email.

**AZELLA Customer Service Survey Results**

ADE has made a commitment to deliver "Knock Your Socks Off" service to our educational community. To gauge our success in achieving this goal, we annually survey our AZELLA constituents. We thank all of you who have taken the time to respond to the survey and to provide thoughtful comments on the service you have received from our staff. Here are some of the 2013-2014 results and some of the common comments.

- Based on the survey results, AZELLA has been designated as the "Most Improved Program" at ADE.
- On a scale of 0-5, the Overall Satisfaction rating was 4.24 in 2014, up from 3.77 in 2013. Scores improved in all areas including timely responses, complete and effective communication, collaboration, and displaying a high level of content knowledge.
- Comment: Keep doing more webinars.
- Comment: Create a one-page timeline with all key events.
- Comment: Improve the training for navigating the *AZELLA Placement Test* process in *PearsonAccess*.
- Comment: Provide the ability to search for previous student ELL program participation.
- Comment: The ADE staff were more than courteous and professional, making a difficult task as easy as possible.

The AZELLA team has already put into place improved and more complete training materials. We will continue with our goal of responding to all inquiries within one business day. Student program participation has been added to the SDELL70 report for 2014-2015.

**Volunteers Needed for Stage III-V Sample Test Material Development**

Are you interested in learning some new skills in test item development and at the same time helping to build useful new sample test materials for Stages III-V? If so, please email [AZELLA@azed.gov](mailto:AZELLA@azed.gov), and we will tell you more about this opportunity.

**Emailing AZELLA Team**

When emailing [AZELLA@azed.gov](mailto:AZELLA@azed.gov), please:

- Use a meaningful subject line that includes your district name.
- Include full contact information in your signature line or elsewhere in the email.
- Include the student's SAIS number, if your question is in regard to a specific student.

The AZELLA Team strives to respond to emails within one business day unless further research is needed.

## NAEP and International Assessments

**NAEP/TIMSS 2015 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS ONLY****Are You Ready?**

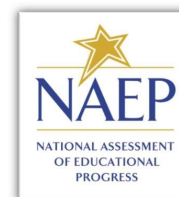
As the summer comes to a close and the new school year begins, preparations for **2015 NAEP/TIMSS** assessments are underway. Districts and schools selected to represent Arizona have been notified of assessment dates, sample size, and grade/subject area.

**NAEP 2015 Assessment Window**

January 26 – March 6  
Math, Reading, Science  
Grades 4, 8, 12

**TIMSS 2015 Assessment Window**

March 30 – May 29  
Math, Science  
Grades 4, 8, 12

**Coming Soon:****September 2014**

- The packets that include the NAEP or TIMSS folders are mailed to the Principal.
- The Principal selects a School Coordinator by **September 19**.
- The Principal gives the School Coordinator the NAEP or TIMSS Folder.

**NAEP 2012 GRADE 4 WRITING COMPUTER-BASED ASSESSMENT**

Thank you to all the schools and students who participated in the NAEP 2012 Grade 4 Writing Computer-Based Assessment (WCBA) study. The study was conducted to determine if fourth-grade students could effectively demonstrate their writing knowledge and skills during a computer-delivered assessment.

Computers are becoming increasingly important in today's classrooms as tools for both teaching and learning, and this study offers lessons to educators who want to support elementary students in using computers to write. A small usability study was conducted prior to the WCBA. The usability study uncovered that of the fourth-graders who participated, most found difficulty using icons for "bold," "italics," "copy," "paste," the zoom feature, highlighting tool, and the text to speech function.

The usability study then informed changes that were made before the actual WCBA study was administered. The findings from the WCBA indicate that fourth-graders are, in fact, capable of using computer programs to effectively type, organize, and write well enough to be assessed.

As we look to improve large-scale online assessments, the findings from this study support the NAEP Governing Board plans to transition all NAEP assessments to technology-based assessments.

Please note that NAEP provides all devices and administers the technology-based assessment without connecting to the schools' Internet. You can find the details for the administration and the full report and findings at the link below through the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES). The interactive online report includes the following:

- Platform Development
- Student Performance
- Assessment Questions
- Accommodations Administered with Universal Design Features

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/writing/lessons/default.aspx>

Follow NAEP on social media:



From Shelly Pollnow, Ed.D., Director of the NAEP Program for Arizona

### OELAS Update

**A One-Day ELL Coordinator Boot Camp** is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2014. The meeting will be held at the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix. This training is **strictly limited** to ELL coordinators with less than two years of experience.

**A “Practitioners of English Language Learning (PELL) Meeting”** is scheduled for Friday, September 19, 2014. This meeting will also be held at the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix.

Registration is \$75.00 for each meeting. They both include breakfast, snacks, and lunch. To learn more detailed information and to register for either session, please access the following link: <http://www.azed.gov/online/registration/calendar/RenderCalendar.asp>

### Assessment 2014 - 2015 Critical Dates Calendar



To help District Test Coordinators track upcoming dates for each of the different Assessment programs, an Assessment Calendar is posted on every Assessment page on the ADE website. This calendar includes critical dates for Achievement Assessments, Alternate Assessments, AZELLA, NAEP and International Assessments, and will be updated monthly throughout the year. The calendar can be viewed by month with all Assessment programs or by the specific Assessment program at [www.azed.gov/assessment/](http://www.azed.gov/assessment/). The individual Assessment program calendars will have more detailed information.

### Contact Information

#### **Achievement Assessments**

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Margaret Bowerman, Communications  
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#### **Alternate Assessments**

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Email: [AssessingSWDs@azed.gov](mailto:AssessingSWDs@azed.gov)

#### **AZELLA**

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#### **NAEP**

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